

UB Law Forum

Volume 1
Number 1 *Summer 1985*

Article 18

7-1-1985

Focus on Faculty: Wade Newhouse

UB Law Forum

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Recommended Citation

UB Law Forum (1985) "Focus on Faculty: Wade Newhouse," *UB Law Forum*: Vol. 1 : No. 1 , Article 18.
Available at: https://digitalcommons.law.buffalo.edu/ub_law_forum/vol1/iss1/18

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FOCUS ON FACULTY

Wade Newhouse: 27 Years of Service

Wade Newhouse told the graduating students at commencement exercises this year that the unglamorous — even mundane — tasks, which are the grist of most lawyers' mills, can make a difference.

Newhouse's 27 years on the Law School faculty are a living testament to these words.

While continuing his extensive scholarly pursuits and teaching, he has stepped in to many "messy," unrewarding administrative jobs that have significantly contributed to the Law School's current strength.

Thanks to Wade Newhouse the Law School building, John Lord O'Brien Hall, stands as one of the most well-equipped structures on the Amherst Campus. From 1961 to 1974 he served as chairman of the Building Committee and spoke with professors and deans at law schools throughout the country to learn the strengths and weaknesses of their facilities. He then worked with architects and engineers to develop a plan for a highly functional and adaptable structure.

The state was Newhouse's next target in achieving the school he envisioned. Through detailed and persistent explanation he petitioned for funds to create a building that would stand independently as the Law School at UB. It was a fitting tribute when, at the dedication of O'Brien Hall, Newhouse was presented with a plaque recognizing his "industry, vision, dedication, persistence and understanding."

As a favor to the Law School, Newhouse served as director of the law library on three separate occasions. From 1977 to 1980 in that capacity he helped to rebuild the facility which was deteriorating quickly and losing its autonomy among the network of University libraries.

In 1980 he was named the first director of the UB Jaekle Center for State and Local Government. He organized it, initiated its many programs and left a solid foundation upon which his successors could build.

In addition to his public service record, Newhouse has continued to write and teach. He recently finished a revision of his book, "Uniformity



and Equality in State Taxation," and completed another manuscript entitled, "Law and the Education of Handicapped Children." He is currently working on the second edition of his 1978 text, "Public Sector Labor Rela-

tions Law in New York State."

And so, when Newhouse tells the graduates, "We can all contribute" and "Go, make a difference," he is speaking from much personal experience.

Excerpts from Newhouse's Commencement Address

I imagine that, almost without exception, each of the faculty has left you with some sense of her or his vision of justice, coupled with a conviction that the world would be a better place if that vision should prevail. But beyond diversity, I suspect you will find a unity in the faculty on the idea that we are all obligated TO HAVE a vision of justice. Your commitment to our profession is a commitment to searching for, believing in, and acting on your vision of justice. Above all, then, it is the IDEA OF JUSTICE that we celebrate today.

We all know that few of us will be frequently — if at all — directly in-

involved with dramatic and world-shaking causes and events. For most of us, life will largely be relatively anonymous. Nevertheless, small victories should not be scorned. In performing those unglamorous — even mundane — tasks which are the grist of most lawyers' mills, you will be no less concerned with justice. Those many unglamorous tasks make up a large part of that tangled web, the law, which — when informed by a social vision — can make our life in our community tolerably peaceful and just. The many small victories, alone and cumulatively, can make a difference.